

Rick Sheehy
Lieutenant Governor
State Capitol, Room 2315
P.O. Box 94863
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4863
Phone (402) 471-2256
ricksheehy@notes.state.ne.us

November 21, 2005

In accordance with guidance from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the State of Nebraska has implemented the use of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in all planning, training, and exercises. Recently the DHS has issued the NIMS Fiscal Year 2006 (FY06) implementation requirements. Enclosed you will find the FY06 NIMS implementation matrices for the county level, a summary of the NIMS implementation schedule, and a sample statement of compliance.

According to the FY05 standards Nebraska was required to submit a certification letter to DHS which attested to Nebraska's NIMS compliance. DHS has outlined that Nebraska will be required to submit a certification letter attesting that Nebraska, including the tribal and local jurisdictions, has met the FY06 requirements. (See implementation schedule.) In order for Nebraska to develop such a letter, each county is being required to submit a self certification letter to NEMA by September 15, 2006, attesting NIMS compliance for FY06. (See sample statement of compliance.)

The attached matrices outline the steps that state, tribal, and local entities must take in FY06 (October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006) to become fully NIMS compliant. As a condition of receiving FY 2007 federal preparedness funding, jurisdictions will be required to meet the FY06 NIMS implementation requirements. When NIMS is fully implemented, your county/region will: institutionalize the use of the Incident Command System; formally recognize NIMS and adopt NIMS principles and policies; develop a strategy and timeline for full NIMS implementation; and establish a NIMS compliance baseline by determining the NIMS requirements that have already been met.

To successfully comply with the NIMS and the standards set forth by the DHS, it is imperative that we cooperate at the state, tribal and local levels. If your jurisdiction or agency would like assistance with the training aspect please contact NEMA at (402) 471-7421. NEMA is planning to provide training on the NIMCAST tool in the upcoming months. Check the NEMA web page for further details, www.nema.ne.gov. Attached is a NIMCAST user's guide that will facilitate your use of the program.

Additional information and sample documents on NIMS can be found on NEMA's web page, (www.nema.ne.gov) or at the NIC web page, (www.fema.gov/nims). If you have questions concerning NIMS or how the state of Nebraska is implementing NIMS, please contact the NIMS coordinator Tonya Smith at (402) 471-7176 or via e-mail at tonya.smith@nema.ne.gov.

Respectfully,

Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper